

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 23, 25 to 30, 34 to 44, 46 to 54, 69, 73 and 74 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, 28, 30, 42 and 69 have been amended, without prejudice. Claims 31 to 33 and 45 have been canceled, without prejudice. Elements of canceled claims 33 and 45, which the Examiner previously indicated define allowable subject matter, have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 69. Elements of original claim 24, previously incorporated into Claims 1 and 69, have been deleted from those claims. However, Claims 73 and 74, which contain those elements, have been added. Minor editorial corrections have been made to Claims 14, 28, 30 and 42.

The amendment to the specification has been made to correct a typographical error. The lipids used to prepare the MSLC Contrast Agent in Example 1 included **MPEG5000 DPPE**, not **MPEG500 DPPE**, as it would appear from the typographical error. The use of MPEG5000 DPPE was correctly referenced in Examples 2, 3 and 4. Since the specification has been amended, a Supplemental Declaration by the inventors is also enclosed herewith, should the Examiner consider this necessary.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections set forth in the Office Action, but have amended the claims to advance prosecution of the instant application to allowance. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications directed to any deleted subject matter.

It is believed that the above amendments render moot the rejections set forth in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112, second paragraph. There being no

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further rejections pending in this application, a Notice of Allowance of pending Claims 1 to 23, 25 to 30, 34 to 44, 46 to 54, 69, 73 and 74 is respectfully requested.

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